

**MINUTES
OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS COMMISSION
August 27, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bigbee called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Answering roll call were Commissioners Arsenault, Bigbee, Davis, Lagerstrom, Seidman, Stanton, Winnick and Staff Liaisons Lisa Schaefer and Annie Johnson.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Chair Bigbee asked that the Southview Incident (Item A) be moved so that it could be in conjunction with item K.V. Bias/Hate Response Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stanton to approve the meeting agenda of the August 27, 2013 meeting as revised. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Winnick.
Motion carried.

IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting of July 23, 2013

Motion was made by Commissioner Stanton to approve the consent agenda; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.
Motion carried.

V. COMMUNITY COMMENT

There were no community comments.

VI. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Immigration Reform.

Commissioner Stanton provided an updated version of the draft resolution. Changes included: removal of reference to poll data, which was replaced by American Action Network Study Data; reference to the U.S. Chamber; correction of grammar; updating the reference to estimated foreign-born population; and the removal of clause regarding whom to send the resolution. Additional data used was from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Commissioners offered additional revisions. A cover memo will be included with suggestions of whom to send the resolution.

Motion was made by Commissioner Stanton to recommend to the City Council that they adopt the revised resolution and that it be circulated as widely as possible, including the Minnesota Congressional Delegation; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Winnick.
Motion carried.

B. Appoint Members for Community Outreach Working Group.

Commissioner Davis reported that Commissioner Cashmore has been out of town. Commissioner Winnick provided an update from Cashmore regarding membership. Chair Bigbee expressed concern with the delay in the working groups' membership, and both asked and offered help to the group. Commissioner Davis had been in contact with all prospective members earlier this summer; she will reconnect with each. Her intention is to have the group determine the mission of the Community Outreach Working Group at the first meeting. Chair Bigbee requested that workshop sessions be set, volunteers identified, and broadened participation teed up by the September HRRC meeting; he will meet with Commissioner Davis and Cashmore to help implement.

C. Appoint Members for Quasquicentennial Working Group.

Commissioner Lagerstrom reported that she has two community volunteers for the working group. The individual that responded to the press release has not responded to additional communications to work with the group. Commissioner Lagerstrom also requested that the two new student commissioners be appointed to the working group as well. The initiative will wrap up in at the end of December; Founder's Day is December 12th and Commissioner Lagerstrom has been in touch with the City's Director of Communications to prepare.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lagerstrom to appoint Aileen Foley, Laura Nisi, Paige Harrington, and Molly Haeg to the Quasquicentennial Working Group; motion was seconded by Commissioner Seidman.

Motion carried.

Jessi Kingston arrived to the meeting at 7:29pm.

D. Southview Middle School & Bias/Hate Response Plan.

Commissioner Winnick provided an update on the Bias/Hate Response Plan; copies of the existing plan were distributed to commissioners. Commissioner Winnick reported that he was setting up a meeting with the Edina Police Chief when the incident at Southview Middle School occurred on Sunday morning, August 11; paint was sprayed on three sides of the building. There were references to marijuana and also derogatory references to school staff. There were also racial references made in the vandalism. The graffiti had been removed by the afternoon of the day it occurred. The police reported that the incident will not be charged as a hate crime, and three juvenile individuals are being formally referred to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office with a charge of defaming and destruction of public property. Commissioner Winnick reminded commissioners that the Human Rights and Relations Commission's role is primarily advisory to the City Council. The matter is still under investigation by the police.

Commissioner Kingston requested that the City issue a blanket statement against the actions, regardless of who committed the act. Commissioner Stanton reported that other HRRC groups take a more active role in these types of incidents, but that the City Council has only charged the EHRRC with an advisory role. Chair Bigbee asked that the commission be aware of the School District's role, as the incident occurred on their property. Commissioner Lagerstrom provided a statement from the Southview Principal which was sent to Southview parents via email. Copies were distributed to the members of the commission. There has been no communication from the School District. There has been no communication to the greater community impacted by the incident.

Commissioner Kingston moved to have Chair Bigbee urge the City Council and Mayor to issue a public statement against the incident at Southview Middle School and to reiterate that the City of Edina is an inclusive community which does not tolerate this type of activity; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried; Chair Bigbee abstained.

The motion will be supported by the Commission's work plan and initiatives to be more inclusive and support anti-bullying initiatives.

Chair Bigbee and Commissioner Winnick will meet with the Mayor to deliver the Commission's message. No additional specific action by the Commission is planned.

E. New Student Orientation and Mentoring.

Commissioner Seidman reported that the new student orientation occurred on the morning of the Edina High School orientation day and was hosted by Karen Kurt, Assistant City Manager, and Annie Johnson, City Manager Fellow. The students completed a mock meeting and were given a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of being a commissioner. The student will continue meeting on a quarterly basis. There are not currently any city guidelines for commission mentorships.

Staff Liaison Johnson reported that the student applications will be provided to the Commission at the September meeting. Both student commissioners are seniors at Edina High School and have both never served on a commission before. Mentors are needed to provide a 30 minute update and work plan review before the September meeting. Commissioner Lagerstrom volunteered to be a mentor; she, Commissioner Seidman, and Staff Liaison Johnson will meet with the students at 6:30 September 24th. Johnson passed out updated Commission roster information. Commissioner Seidman reported that there may be an Edina High School Anti-Bullying club this year.

F. Bound for Great Leadership Program.

Chair Bigbee reported that the NFL anti-bullying program was suggested to the School District, which responded that the HRRRC should be involved. This was referred back to the School District because it was beyond the scope of the HRRRC Work Plan and budget; however Bigbee told Superintendent Rick Dressen that the HRRRC would be a partner on initiative if they decided to take it up.

G. SHIP/Public Health Update.

Commissioners received a copy of the most recent program update. The cities of Edina, Richfield, and Bloomington are involved in do.Town. Chair Bigbee reported that transportation issues are involved, such as sidewalks and livability issues for the community. Issues with a walking path near Cornelia School had brought out some Not-In-My-Back-Yard conversations by community members at the City Council level, which makes Edina less inclusive and welcoming to all people who need basic infrastructure; the City Council adopted the sidewalk infrastructure.

H. Southview International Festival.

Chair Bigbee reported that the Southview International Festival 'Taste of Southview' was brought up at the last work session by Councilmember Sprague. The Festival of Nations in Saint Paul is a much larger, similar event. There has not been much support

for a separate event, but instead the Commission could issue a statement of support for the Southview event and Commissioners could attend if possible.

I. Appoint an Edina Resource Center Council Representative.

Commissioner Winnick reported that he has been the representative for the Edina Community Council the past couple of years. He asked if any other commissioners were interested in serving. There are 5-6 meetings per year at 7:30am at the Community Center. If Winnick is reappointed, he will serve at the Council Chair.

Commissioner Kingston moved to appoint Commissioner Steve Winnick to the Edina Community Council Board for the next year as the Chairperson; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Seidman.

Motion carried.

J. Draft 2014 Work Plan.

Chair Bigbee drew the Commission's attention to the draft work plan provided in the meeting packet. No specific events for 2014 have yet been selected; the work plan highlights general initiatives. The anti-bullying initiative will happen in the 1st or 2nd quarter of 2014. Commissioner Lagerstrom suggested that the HRRC sponsor a book reading for elementary kids with Nancy Carlson, Edina native. The budget for the total initiative will be \$800.

The Community Outreach Initiative will be complete by the end of March 2014, with a budget of \$500 for beverages and snacks for listening sessions. The Police Department, Parks and Rec Department, and School Liaisons are also to be listed as initiative partners.

The Neuro-Diversity Fair was revised to be the Disability Awareness Campaign, with target completion by October 2014 and a \$300 budget.

Days of Remembrance will require a \$1500 budget to bring in Ellen Kennedy and to do three events in 2014. Two of three days have been confirmed. Events may include a play, speaker, and video screening.

Staff Liaison Schaefer submitted a preliminary budget to City Council for HRRC that was between \$3,000-\$3,500 for 2014.

Commissioner Kingston moved to adopt the 2014 HRRC Work Plan as revised; Commissioner Seidman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Staff will send the revised Work Plan to Chair Bigbee before submission to Assistant City Manager Kurt.

K. General Work Plan Updates/Updates from Teams.

i. Monitoring Domestic Partner Legislation

Commissioner Stanton reported that there are no urgent updates; the City ordinance regarding Domestic Partner Ordinance may need to be revised based on recent DOMA changes. The IRS guidelines are still needed, and there is a risk for the law to be overturned in the future. The registration could still apply to individuals who have a committed relationship, but are not married. Staff Liaison Johnson reported that City Attorney Knutson indicated there are no issues with leaving the ordinance as-is or revising.

Group Health insurance would require a change in the statute to allow domestic partners to have family/dependent insurance coverage. The HRRC had discussed this issue in the past and the legislation had not been moved at the state level, but the bill is still up for consideration in the next session. This item will be added to the Monthly Work Plan document for consideration by HRRC in March of 2014.

ii. Quasquicentennial

Commissioner Lagerstrom provided a request for a \$500 budget for the Quasquicentennial event in December 2013 for a banner. The banner will be freestanding and can be donated to the Historical Society after the event. Staff will clarify if the budget request needs approval for the September meeting.

Staff will pull out existing HRRC banners for the September meeting

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS

None.

VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Staff Liaison Johnson reported that Suburban Human Rights Commission Liaisons have started meeting and there is a potential November event for Commissioners from Eden Prairie, Bloomington, Falcon Heights, Red Wing.

Bloomington HRC extended an invitation to the EHRC for a Human Rights event they are sponsoring in September 2013.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Commissioner Seidman moved and Commissioner Winnick seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Bigbee declared the meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Johnson, HRRC Staff Liaison

Minutes approved by HRRC, September 24, 2013

Arnie Bigbee, HRRC Chair